Council Proceedings.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, January 19, 1885.

The City Council for 1885 met in the Council Chamber on the 19th inst. and the members having subscribed to the declaration of office, were duly constituted. There were present Mayor Becher, Ald. Taylor, Watson, Green, O'Meara, Cowan, Kingston, Brown, Hook, Stringer, Hodgins, Scarrow, Christie, Ex-Mayor Hyman and Ex-Aldermen Birrell, Hewitt and Niven were also in attendance.

Ex-Mayor Hyman introduced the Mayor elect in a brief speech, referring to the doings of the past year, and the matters that would come before the new Council, and expressing a hope that everything might be done harmoniously and for the best interests of the city.

HIS WORSHIP'S ADDRESS.

In assuming the Chair, His Worship referred in complimentary terms to the management of the city affairs during the past year, and the difficulty he would have in filling the Chair as satisfactorily. Though it was a matter of regret that so many members of the old council had not been returned, still it was subject for congratulation to see that all had not left, and that among the new Council there were so many prominent citizens to take part in the deliberations. The new year would be a very important one for the city. Though it was difficult to keep the expenditure under two cents, still there were matters that if dealt with rightly would serve to make the present Council very popular. During the year they would have to take up the question of amalgamation with London East, and he trusted the details would be submitted to them very soon. London East had expressed their very strong desire that the matter should be carried at an early date and submitted to their people. Another matter they would have to deal with was the sale of the present Exhibition Grounds and the purchase of new ones. With regard to this matter, he trusted the policy of the Council would be, as in the past, to select several sites, and to put it to the people to say which would be the best and most advantageous for the city. With regard to the Military Grounds, too, there was a question. If they could exchange these and could only get these and the Exhibition Grounds sold and the land paying taxes the revenue would be materially increased. There was also the question of securing the rebuilding of the car works and new locomotive shops. If they could only succeed in getting them here—as there were good prospects for doing—they would acquire something that would be a great benefit to the city. With regard to the finances, they would have to be very economical. The revenue from the Waterworks would not be so large as last year—in fact, there was fear of a deficiency. The controllable expenditure in the hands of the Council was very small and they must exercise great care in laying it out. Last year it was only $70,000; it was doubtful if it would be so large this year. He then reviewed the various items of expenditure during the past year, and continued by saying it was likely the assessment would not be so large as last year, and if they wished to keep the taxation down they would have to exercise every right economy to carry out the affairs. He trusted when any proper reduction was to be made that they would have the courage to make it, for it certainly required courage to do so. The school expenditure during the past year had been large and he trusted they would be able to reduce it, and the same with the Police Commissioners. He had been reported as saying at two meetings that their expenditure had been very large. He wished to state that he did not say they had made an extravagant expenditure, for he did not know sufficient of their expenditure to express any opinion at all, and he certainly was not guilty of any extravagance. He trusted they would get on harmoniously during the year. If he made any mistakes he trusted they would be from want of judgment, and not from any desire to do so. From love of his native city he desired to forward her interests, and he trusted their efforts would lead to the material advantage of the city.

The minutes of last meeting were then read and signed.